

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-45 remain pending in this application. These claims were noted as allowed by the Notice of Allowance mailed July 9, 2004. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowed claims.

Claim 24 is amended by the present amendment to correct minor informalities. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to Claim 24 is not intended to alter the scope of the claim.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-45 are believed to remain in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable Supplemental Notice of Allowability to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)

---

Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar  
Registration No. 34,423

I:\ATTY\NJK\PROSECUTION\217391\217391US-312 AMDT.DOC